

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 57, 59, 61-63, 65, 77, 79, 82, 83, 85, and 86 remain pending, with claims 57, 77, and 86 being independent claims. Claims 60, 64, 81 and 84 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 57, 61, 63, 77, 82, and 86 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the amendments do not include new matter.

Claims 57, 59-63, 65, 77, 79-83, 85, and 86 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silvers (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,498) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,881). Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 64 and 84 recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the art rejection. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, independent claim 57 has been amended to include the features previously recited in claim 64, as well as intervening claim 60. Similarly, independent claim 77 has been amended to include the features previously recited in claim 84, as well as intervening claim 81. Further, independent claim 86 has been amended to now recite the features previously recited in claims 80 and 84. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 57, 77, and 86 now recite allowable subject matter, as indicated in the Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection, and early passage to issue of the application.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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